

## **Brady Canal Project Dedicated**

The Brady Canal Breaux Project was dedicated recently during a ceremony at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center in Houma, Louisiana.

The 7,600-acre project will restore historic water flows and protect shorelines to maintain and enhance existing marshes in the area. The project was authorized by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Public Law 646)—commonly called the Breaux Act after Senator John Breaux who was the major author of the Act. Two private landowners, Burlington Resources and Fina Oil and Chemical Company provided the local share of the project cost.

Speakers at the dedication included Phil Boydston, Burlington Resources; Edward Nash, Senior Vice President, Fina Oil and Chemical Company; John Woodard, Vice Chairman, Lafourche-Terrebonne Soil and Water Conservation District; and Dr. Bill Good, Administrator, Coastal Restoration Division, Office of Coastal restoration and Management; and John Stoika, President, Castex Energy, Inc.

“Before the project was installed, the area was losing about 31 acres of marsh per year,” explained Don Gohmert, State Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the federal sponsor of the project. “The weirs, rock-lined embankments, and rock plug will reduce extreme tidal fluctuation in the area and substantially reduce erosion. The project took about a year to build, but will provide long-lasting benefits to an area of Terrebonne Parish that was severely impacted by erosion. Saltwater intrusion has been a problem at certain times of the year and during tropical storms and hurricanes.”

The Brady Canal Project is located about 15 miles southwest of Houma, Louisiana, north of Lake Mechant and west of Lake DeCade.

The Lafourche-Terrebonne Soil and Water Conservation District enlisted volunteers to plant seven thousand five hundred containers of giant cutgrass along the shorelines of many earthen embankments to further reduce erosion in those particular areas.

The Brady Canal Project partnership included Burlington Resources; Fina Oil and Chemical Company; Castex Energy, Inc.; USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service; Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program; Lafourche-Terrebonne Soil and Water Conservation District; Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government and the Public Law 646 Task Force. All South General Contractors did the work on the project.